

Allergen Policy

All childcare settings have a legal responsibility to provide allergen information about the ingredients in foods given to children in their care.

This information must be shared with parents/carers on request.

'Before a child is admitted to the setting, the provider must obtain information about any special dietary requirements, preferences and food allergies that the child has, and any special health requirements.'

EYF5 Framework 2021, DfE

Parents/carers should discuss any food allergies and intolerances before signing a contract with to ensure that suitable provisions are possible.

Every effort will be made to accommodate dietary requirements, however in a setting that is also a family home, it may not be possible to completely eliminate the risk of contaminants in the environment.

These aspects will need to be discussed in detail to assess whether the setting will be able to meet the child's needs safely.

If a child's needs cannot be safely accommodated, it will be necessary for parents/carers to look for childcare at another setting.

Our Procedure

- If children have identified allergies or intolerances, all foods and ingredients will be checked to ensure no identified allergens are present.
- If a child has a severe allergy, foods where an allergen has been identified will not be given to the other children present on that day, to avoid any potential cross-

contamination or exposure to the allergen.

- If food is provided for a child who has an allergy, we will follow the guidance as set out in the documents [Safer Food, Better Business](#).
- I have a full paediatric first-aid qualification, which includes training related to allergic reactions. As such, I know what to do should a situation occur where a child suffers from anaphylaxis (a severe allergic reaction).
- If a child is known to be susceptible to severe allergic reactions, they should have been prescribed an auto-injector (containing injectable epinephrine) by their GP and parents/carers must ensure this is available within the setting every day.
- Emergency medication will be stored out of reach of children, but accessible to adults in case of an emergency.
- We will also use the government publication [Help for Early Years Providers](#).
- Allergen information for foods provided to children and ingredients used in cooking/baking will be recorded/kept for a suitable length of time.
- Parents/carers are entitled to see this information on request, details of which may be used to help spot patterns in a child's symptoms and support medical professionals to determine the cause of a new or unidentified allergies or intolerances.
- Parents/carers should keep the setting updated if their child develops any new allergies or food intolerances while in our care, as well as if an allergy evolves or disappears as a child gets older.
- Parents/carers should seek medical advice from their GP if they suspect their child has an allergy or intolerance.
- Any medical advice and/or reports should be shared with the setting so we can work together to support the child's diet appropriately.
- If a child develops a new allergy or intolerance while already attending the setting and their additional dietary requirements cannot safely be accommodated, then parents/carers will unfortunately need to look for suitable childcare elsewhere.

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